

Index, or ECI, by ½ percent per year. The 2001, 2002 and 2003 pay raises actually exceeded this standard and cut the gap from 13.5 percent to 6.4 percent.

In May 2002, the Department of Defense released its Ninth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC), which acknowledged that current pay structure lags considerably behind pay for civilians of comparable age and education. And, the Department of Defense has been supportive of increased raises to restore a new comparability standard.

In summary, the capping of military pay raises below private sector pay growth for extended periods during the past 30 years has led to significant retention problems among second-term and career members of the Armed Forces.

Such retention problems cost the United States more in terms of lost military experience, decreased readiness, and increased training costs than maintaining the principle of pay comparability.

The remaining so-called pay comparability gap should be eliminated as quickly as possible, and military pay increases must sustain full comparability with increases in the Employment Cost Index.

My bill would ensure that military pay raises never again lag civilian pay raises. Existing authority to close the pay gap expires in 2006. This legislation adds to that authority by specifying that military pay raises must be at least at the level of civilian wage growth beginning in 2007.

I have been asked if I am doing this because of our troops returning from the Middle East and the war in Iraq. The answer is no and yes. No because this legislation builds on the legislation I offered in the 107th Congress and addresses the same problem of the pay gap with a different approach. This issue is not new to me.

The answer is also yes because I can think of no better way to show continued support for our troops than to send them a clear signal that the Congress and the nation value their service and sacrifice, both today and in the future.

This measure has the full endorsement of the Fleet Reserve Association and the Military Coalition, and I have attached their letter of endorsement.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this important legislation and work to ensure its quick passage. Nearly identical legislation was introduced in the Senate yesterday. Working together with our Senate colleagues, I urge my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee to include this legislation as a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004.

THE MILITARY COALITION,
Alexandria, VA, April 30, 2003.

Hon. SUSAN A. DAVIS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed services and veterans' organizations representing more than five and one half million current and former members of the seven uniformed services, plus their families and survivors, strongly supports legislation you are preparing to introduce that would amend title 37, United States Code, concerning future military pay raises and their comparison with private sector pay growth. Under the provisions of your proposal, increases in pay for members of the

uniformed services would match the growth in the Employment Cost Index (ECI).

This is a priority issue, and the Coalition strongly supports the introduction of such legislation. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) already recommended that future military pay raises be based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). If that were adopted, military personnel would not receive comparable pay increases with those in the private sector, thus halting progress in closing the pay gap between military and civilian pay levels. In addition, the Administration budget request would cap FY2004 pay increases for NOAA and PHS personnel at the CPI level.

The ECI measures private-sector wage increases, while the CPI is an inflation gauge to preserve the purchasing power of retired pay, veterans' benefits and other programs. Retaining the ECI will ensure that pay increases for all seven of the uniformed services mirror those in the civilian economy. This is important to maintaining adequate recruiting and retention within the services and subsequently to our Nation's military readiness.

The Coalition appreciates your leadership on this issue and will work toward the enactment of this legislation into law.

Sincerely,

THE MILITARY COALITION.

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA BEAVER AND ASHLEY WATSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Amanda Beaver and Ashley Watson of Grand Junction, Colorado. Amanda and Ashley are making a difference in their community and touching the lives of many of their neighbors in the Grand Valley, and today I would like to honor their accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Amanda and Ashley are fourteen-year-old students at Grand Mesa Middle School. This past year, they planned a fundraiser, "Answer to Cancer," to honor families who have been touched by cancer and to support the American Cancer Society. The girls, who both have grandparents with cancer, have spent nearly a year planning the event, which features dancing, games, and refreshments. They have seen outstanding support from the local community, receiving donations from local businesses and numerous individuals.

Mr. Speaker, Amanda Beaver and Ashley Watson have shown extraordinary leadership as young citizens of Grand Junction. Their volunteer efforts are offering hope to an important segment of the community and creating greater awareness of cancer among their peers as well as their elders. These two talented and determined young women clearly have great things ahead of them, and it is my great honor to recognize their hard work before this body of Congress and this nation today. I wish them all the best in the future.

HONORING THOMAS RONAYNE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Thomas Ronayne, a decorated veteran and Commander of the Huntington Station Veterans of Foreign Wars.

After entering the United States Navy in January of 1980, Tom served aboard the USS Vogelgesang and the USS Vreeland. In September of 1983, he was Honorably Discharged from the Navy. For his service, Tom was awarded the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, two Navy Battle "E" ribbons, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Navy Pistol Expert Ribbon, one Atlantic Fleet Command "Golden Grammy Awards" for Gram Analysis Excellence and two "Silver Grammy" Awards for Gram Analysis Excellence.

Tom became a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in 1996, joined Post #1469 in Huntington Station in 1998 and held various offices before being elected Commander in 2000. He still serves as Commander of the Huntington Station VFW, Nathan Hale Post 1469, the oldest VFW Post on Long Island and largest in downstate New York.

Tom also participated significantly in the operations and efforts at Ground Zero. He was injured as a result of the attacks on the World Trade Center and remained on scene for over seven months, participating in the recovery, clean-up and rebuilding efforts. Tom still visits regularly with the workers at Ground Zero.

Tom has three sons and lives in Greenlawn, NY with his wife Linda. I commend Tom Ronayne for his dedicated service to our country during his time in the Navy and in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center, and for his hard work on behalf of veterans on Long Island.

TRIBUTE TO FRED FLOWER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity and pay tribute to an icon of the Montrose, Colorado community who recently passed away. Leo Fred Flower, Jr. died at the age of 84 and as his family and friends mourn his loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Fred for his many contributions throughout his life.

Fred was a longtime civic and business leader in Montrose whose affiliations ranged from the Western Slope Livestock Commission to the Montrose Industrial Development Board. He graduated from Montrose High School in 1934 and began working at a grocery store, later driving a truck for the Montrose Flour Milling Co. and pursuing further education. Eventually Fred began doing office work for the flour mill and for a local ranch and livestock business, which he would later purchase.

In 1940 Fred began a career in banking, interrupted by his service in the Army from 1942

to 1946. He eventually became president of Montrose National Bank and Montrose Savings and Loan, and also spent a few years as a rancher. In 1968 he bought the family business, Flower Motor Company, which his son now owns.

Fred was a dedicated community leader and played an integral role in establishing Montrose Memorial Hospital. He established the first Kiwanis Club in Montrose, and served on the local school board and on the board of the Colorado Western College. He gave his time and efforts to innumerable community organizations, and was most recently involved in Montrose's senior center.

Mr. Speaker it is with profound sadness that we remember the life and memory of Fred Flower who so deeply touched the Montrose community. As family and friends mourn his passing, I would like to recognize the wonderful life Charlie lived. He will be missed.

HONORING LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER GLENN SULMASY

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of my staff for his tireless efforts on behalf of the good people of Connecticut's Second Congressional District. Lieutenant Commander Glenn Sulmasy will soon conclude his service in my Norwich, Connecticut office and become a distinguished teacher of International Law at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Since my term started, Glen has been a liaison in my office to the Coast Guard Academy. As the vice-chairman of the Coast Guard Subcommittee, I came to rely on this relationship. What's more, I rely on his input and his perspective—built from years of expertise and driven by his faith in our country.

Glenn's commitment to me and to my congressional office should be no surprise—he has long had a passion for public service. A 1988 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and 1997 graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law, Glenn has given 15 years of service as a "coastie" in the U.S. Coast Guard—with time spent in the Persian Gulf during Desert Storm, and more recently as a teacher of law at the Coast Guard Academy.

Using his experience to enhance that of our other cadets, Glenn demonstrates an admirable loyalty to his values and the Coast Guard tradition. He has also taught at the Roger William School of Law in Bristol, Rhode Island and serves on the Board of Directors of the Center for International and Comparative Law, the National Coast Guard Museum Association, the New London Parks Conservancy, and the Connecticut Anti-Terrorism Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, Glenn Sulmasy lives by the daily commitment of the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty. And while I will miss Glenn's presence in my Connecticut office, I wish him well and feel confident that I can still count on him.

On behalf of the rest of my staff, I wish to express our affection and gratitude to Lieutenant Commander Glen Sulmasy for his dedicated work.

Glenn, thank you for your service to me, best wishes and Semper Paratus.

HONORING DREAM WEAVERS OF
SOUTHERN COLORADO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding community organization in my district, Dream Weavers of Southern Colorado. For twenty-one years, Dream Weavers has been working hard to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses and today I would like to honor their efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

Dream Weavers is an inspirational all-volunteer organization founded in 1982. Over the last twenty years Dream Weavers has fulfilled the dreams of nearly 230 children, organizing vacations at Disney World, fishing trips and family reunions. Sometimes a child simply wishes for a computer, which the organization is only happy to provide. Dream Weavers also hosts frequent events and parties for its wish recipients, providing critical and continuing support for children and their families. To achieve its goals, Dream Weavers depends on community support from local corporations and individuals as well as its annual Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser.

Mr. Speaker, Dream Weavers of Pueblo is an inspirational organization that truly makes a difference in the lives of children struggling with life-threatening diseases. By focusing on family involvement, Dream Weavers provides wonderful opportunities and memories for children, parents and siblings, and I am honored to have such a compassionate program serving the citizens of my district.

10 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE: THE
UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I want to pay special tribute on the 10th anniversary of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. During the past decade, the institution and its dedicated staff members have worked tirelessly to promote remembrance of the Holocaust and to draw lessons for the future from this very dark chapter of mankind's recent history. When the Museum was dedicated and formally opened in late April 1993, this event culminated over 10 years of preparation that started in 1980 with the chartering of the institution by a unanimous Act of Congress. Recognizing the work of the Museum this week is very fitting, as it is the week of Holocaust Remembrance Day, a time for honoring the millions of Jews who died almost 60 years ago under Nazi tyranny.

As set forth in its mission statement, the Holocaust Memorial Museum has become America's national institution for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holo-

caust history, and is this country's memorial to the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust. The Museum and its International Archives Project focuses on all individuals who suffered during the Holocaust, in addition to the six million executed Jews, the horrific Nazi treatment of millions of Roma, disabled, religious and political prisoners, and prisoners of war. The Museum plays a critical role in advancing and disseminating information, documenting the historicity of the Holocaust, while also preserving the memory of individuals who suffered.

While insuring that the lessons of the past will not be forgotten, the Museum has actively and creatively developed ways to work towards a better future. The institution's dedication to dealing with the horrors of genocide, whether in Nazi Germany, Bosnia, Rwanda or Cambodia is a critical part of the effort to mobilize international action against this plague on all humanity. The Committee on Conscience plays a particularly significant role in bringing timely attention to acts of genocide or related crimes against humanity.

The Museum has rightfully become one of Washington's most revered attractions. The hundreds of thousands of visitors who have toured the Museum since its opening have left with an unforgettable experience and the opportunity to reflect on the deep moral questions stemming from the tragedy of the Holocaust. The Museum's research center has served as a critical resource for scholars who try to help us better understand the lessons of this terrible chapter of human history. The creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has also encouraged other countries to move to establish comparable institutions including, most significantly, in Berlin, Germany.

The U.S. Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair, has worked with the Museum on several occasions, from pushing for the release of documents from the Romani concentration camp in Lety, Czech Republic, to urging Romania to give greater meaning to its stated commitment of rejecting anti-Semitism by removing Antonescu statues from public lands. In response to the alarming spike of anti-Semitic incidents found last summer in Europe, myself and other Members of the Commission have been very active in urging governments and elected officials to denounce the violence and ensure their laws are enabled to prosecute the perpetrators. In support of this effort, I have introduced H. Con. Res. 49, urging, among other things, European states to "promote the creation of educational efforts throughout the region encompassing the participating States of the OSCE to counter anti-Semitic stereotypes and attitudes among younger people, increase Holocaust awareness programs, and help identify the necessary resources to accomplish this goal." It is my hope that other countries will copy the unique and effective model of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Congress has designated April 27th to May 4th as "Days of Remembrance," when our nation will commemorate again the victims of the Holocaust. May we use this time of reflection that will reinforce our common determination to learn from history's harsh lessons.